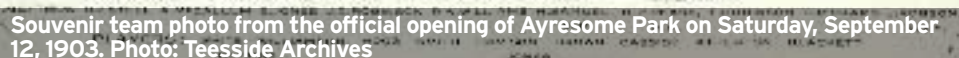


## 25 YEARS SINCE AYRESOME'S FINAL SEASON

# Sharing memories of Boro's former *stomping ground*

He said: "The first match we played was with Sunderland at Ayresome Park, and it was threepence, threepence! It was very handy and if I hadn't enough money to go in, I used to







Ayresome Park, the home of Middlesbrough F.C is demolished following the club's move to their new stadium

wait till 10 minutes before time when they used to open the gates, and see the last 10 minutes of the match.

"Most times there was a boys' part were we could go, and I followed them ever since. I've had a season ticket - even when I went to live in Scarborough, I came to Middlesbrough for the football matches after I retired."

Other early 20th century Boro memories in the collections include Jack Taylor, born in 1912, who recounts walking with friends along the Black Path from Redcar to Ayresome Park, as well as Jack Evans, who lived in nearby Clive Road. The latter describes the experience of living near the ground on matchday as "heavenly".

Jack Evans remembers going in the wooden stand - transferred from the Linthorpe Road Ground - seeing world record signing Alf Common play, and general memories of going to the match.

He said: "You used to go there, and you could go there as a family, and you could stand there and have a joke".

The oral histories provide an insight into a world of lost memories and it is clear that, just like many supporters who head to the Riverside over a century later, the fans who trudged along the Black Path and packed into Ayresome Park loved the ground and the experience it brought.

During the course of this season as we explore Ayresome Park's history, hopefully more fascinating stories and the connections people feel will be uncovered.

■ Anyone interested in sharing memories of Ayresome Park, or who would like to learn more about plans to celebrate the old ground's heritage, can email Tosh at [t.warwick@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:t.warwick@mmu.ac.uk), or send your memories directly to Remember When (see page 2).



Middlesbrough 2-1 Luton Town, League Division One match at Ayresome Park, Sunday 30th April 1995. The last match played at Ayresome Park. Farewell to Ayresome Park. Players celebrating after scoring goal